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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 MMO-01 IGA-02 H-02

INR-07 /047 W
---------- 033375
P 121659Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2485
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17259

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, GW
SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF SELECTED MAAGS

REFS: A. STATE 249429 DTG 070242Z OCT 76
B. PARIS 29827 DTG 081759Z OCT 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY BONN WISHES STRONGLY TO SUPPORT EMBASSY PARIS' VIEW THAT HOST NATION SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF MUTUAL DEFENSE AFFAIRS (MDA) SHOULD NOT BE REJECTED (REFTEL B). THE FRG HAS INDICATED THAT IT INTENDS TO CONTINUE WITH SUCH SUPPORT BECAUSE MDA FULFILLS THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE U.S. DATED JUNE 30, 1955. IT WOULD TAKE AN OVERT ACT ON THE PART OF THE USG TO CHANGE THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

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1. AT EMBASSY BONN (AND WE IMAGINE, AT OTHER EMBASSIES

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WHERE MAAGS EXISTED) NO DISTINCTION WAS MADE BETWEEN MAAG OFFICERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MAAG CHIEF (AND NOW THE CHIEF MDA) IS THE ONLY MILITARY OFFICER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AMBASSADOR'S SMALL STAFF MEETINGS.

2. THE FRG, FOR ITS PART, OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED MAAG TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE EMBASSY. THE MAAG CHIEF AND HIS THREE PRINCIPAL DEPUTIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE FRG'S DIPLOMATIC LIST. MOREOVER, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ISSUED ALL MAAG OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF COLONEL/ NAVY CAPTAIN AND ABOVE WITH THE RED DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARDS WHICH ARE RESERVED FOR DIPLOMATS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT TOO APPEARS TO HAVE CONSIDERED MAAG PERSONNEL AS DIPLOMATS SINCE IT HAS ISSUED MAAG OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF COLONEL/NAVY CAPTAIN AND ABOVE DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS.

4. IN THE CASE OF EMBASSY BONN, REJECTING HOST NATION SUPPORT WOULD COST THE U.S. TAXPAYERS ONLY A LITTLE LESS THAN A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR (FIFTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF MAAG EXPENDITURES). UNLESS CONGRESS CLEARLY INTENDED OTHERWISE, THE LOSS OF SUCH A SUM WOULD BE A HIGH PRICE TO PAY FOR THE CHANGEOVER FROM MAAG TO MDA, A CHANGEOVER WHICH HAS CONSISTED MAINLY OF A CHANGE IN NAME AND A REDUCTION IN AUTHORIZED STRENGTH. HILLENBRAND

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